

Amendments to the Claims :

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A device for extracting plastic preforms (5) provided with a first portion having a predetermined transversal dimension and a second adjacent portion (9) having a transversal dimension greater than the first portion, the device comprising a supporting structure (20, 21), gripping means (29, 30) suitable to extract the preforms (5) from conditioning cavities (7), ~~characterised by the fact that there is provided~~ a plate (23) fixed to the supporting structure (20, 21) and incorporating gripping means (29, 30), which comprise a plurality of straight slits (26) parallel to a predefined direction (D),
 wherein each slit (26) is provided with first sections (27, 28) of a first predetermined width (L1) and second sections forming constrictions (29, 30) of a second predetermined width (L2),
 wherein the second predetermined width (L2) is smaller than the transversal dimension of the second portion (9) of the preform (5) and greater than the dimensions of the first portion of the preform (5),
 whereby the first width (L1) is such to allow the second portion (9) of the preforms (5) to fit into the slit (26), and the second width (L2) is such not to allow the second portion (9) of the preforms (5) to fit into the slit (26),
 wherein there are provided control and operating means to make the plate (23) move in said direction (D) by a predefined length, whereby the preforms (5) are hooked by the plate (23) and extracted from the conditioning cavities (7) by reciprocally moving away the plate (23) from the conditioning cavities (7).
2. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first portion of the preform (5) is the body and the second portion is a ring (9).
3. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the conditioning cavities (7) are arranged side by side and in regular, parallel rows on a surface (6', 6'') of a mobile element (6).
4. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein, in correspondence of

the constrictions ~~(29, 30)~~, the plate (23) has a thickness smaller than the distance between the ring (9) and the outer edge of the conditioning cavities (7), whereby a space is defined, in order to be able to fit into said space when moved in said direction ~~(D)~~.

5. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the mobile ~~component~~ element is a turret (6) pivotable around a horizontal axis ~~(X)~~, parallel to the plane of said plate (23).

6. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2 5 comprising a safety system for adjusting an end-stop of the turret (6).

7. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 6 comprising a system for adjusting the height of the plate (23) from ground level ~~(22)~~.

8. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~one or more of the previous~~ claims 5, wherein the slits (26) are of the through type, passing through the thickness of the plate (23), whereby the preforms~~(5)~~ that are extracted from the ~~holders~~ conditioning cavities (7) of the turret (6) ~~are able to~~ can fall through the plate ~~(23)~~.

9. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~one or more of the previous~~ claims 8 comprising motor means suitable to move the plane of the plate (23) in a substantially direction orthogonal to the plane itself for extracting the preforms~~(5)~~.

10. (Currently amended) An process for extracting a plurality of plastic preforms (5) from their conditioning cavities (7) by means of the device as claimed in claim 1 wherein there is provided a plate (23) with straight and parallel slits having first wider sections ~~(27, 28)~~ and second sections with tooth-shaped constrictions ~~(29, 30)~~, wherein, when the plastic preforms (5) reach a predefined consistency the ~~extraction process starts with~~ comprises the following steps:

- a) nearing the conditioning cavities (7) containing the plastic preforms (5) to the extracting device, ~~characterised in that there are further provided the steps~~
- b) inserting the preforms (5) into the slits ~~(26)~~ by making the second wider portion (9) of the preforms (5) enter the wider sections ~~(27, 28)~~ of the slits (26),
- c) translating the plate (23) by a predetermined length in the direction ~~(D)~~ until the wider portion (9) of the plastic preforms (5) comes into contact with the tooth-shaped constrictions ~~(29, 30)~~ which fit into a space between the second portion (9) and the first portion of the preforms (5), so as to hook the preforms (5) into the plate (23),

d) moving away the plate (23) from the conditioning cavities (7) reciprocally to extract the preforms (5) from the conditioning cavities (7).